

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (**currently amended**): A plastic carafe having a top and a bottom, comprising:

a body portion having an enclosed base **and** defined by a plurality of upstanding **substantially flat** posts and a plurality of **adjacent** panels, each of the plurality of panels separating one of the plurality of posts from one another **and each of said posts joined to the adjacent panel by a rounded corner**;

a flared neck portion having a blown finish and defining a wide mouth; and

a shoulder portion transitioning each of said posts and said panels to said neck portion.

Claim 2 (original): The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the neck portion includes a plurality of inwardly extending grooves.

Claim 3 (original): The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the neck portion includes a plurality of outwardly extending grooves.

Claim 4 (original): The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the neck portion includes a combination of inwardly and outwardly extending grooves.

Claim 5 (original): The plastic carafe according to claim 2, wherein each of the grooves are adapted to increase top load capacity, to provide an antiovalization function, and to provide vacuum absorption when the carafe has been filled, capped, and allowed to cool to ambient temperatures.

Claim 6 (original): The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the wide mouth is circular with an outside diameter of at least two inches.

Claim 7 (original): The plastic carafe according to claim 6, wherein the outside diameter is about 2.5 inches.

Claim 8 (original): The plastic carafe according to claim 6, wherein the outside diameter is greater than typical for a predetermined volume.

Claim 9 (original): The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the shoulder portion includes at least one ornamental design feature on an exterior surface of the carafe.

Claim 10 (original): The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the shoulder portion is free from any ornamental design features on an exterior surface of the carafe.

Claim 11 (original): The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the body portion includes four upstanding posts and four panels.

Claim 12 (original): The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the body portion, the neck portion, and the shoulder portion together define an interior space of about 1.75 liters.

Claim 13 (original): The plastic carafe according to claim 12, wherein the body portion, the neck portion, and the shoulder portion have a weight of about 65 grams.

Claim 14 (original): The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the body portion, neck portion, and shoulder portion are adapted for hot-fill applications.

Claim 15 (original): The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the body portion, neck portion, and shoulder portion are adapted for cold-fill applications.

Claim 16 (original): The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the body portion, neck portion, and shoulder portion comprise polyethylene terephthalate having a crystalline peak melting point of less than 235° C.

Claim 17 (original): The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of panels includes at least one vacuum panel.

Claim 18 (original): The plastic carafe of claim 1, wherein the base is a push-up base.

Claim 19 (original): The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the finish has an undercut approximately at the top of the carafe to provide for a no drip finish.

Claim 20 (original): The plastic carafe according to claim 19, wherein the undercut is adapted to provide the finish with increased stiffness, an antiovalization function, and an increased lightweighting ability.

Claim 21 (original): The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of panels are inwardly curved to increase handling of the carafe.

Claim 22 (**withdrawn; currently amended**): A method of making a blow-molded PET carafe container having an externally-threaded wide mouth finish for receiving a removable closure, comprising the steps of:

disposing a preform in a mold cavity having a mold surface with a container body region, ~~a thread-forming region superadjacent said body-forming region~~, and a moil forming region superadjacent said container body ~~thread-forming~~ region,

said container body region configured to form the container, wherein the container comprises a body portion having an enclosed base having a base section, a shoulder portion, and a neck portion, said base portion being generally square shaped and having and defined by a plurality of upstanding substantially flat posts and a plurality of adjacent panels, each of the plurality of panels separating one of the plurality of posts from one another and each of said posts joined to the adjacent panel by a rounded corner; a flared neck portion having an externally-treaded blown finish and said thread-forming region defining the a wide mouth; and a shoulder portion transitioning each of said posts and said panels to said neck portion,

distending said preform against said mold surface to form an intermediate container article having a moil portion superadjacent a threaded portion; and

severing said moil portion to produce a the wide mouth carafe container.

Claim 23 (**withdrawn**): The method according to claim 22, wherein the wide mouth has an outer diameter of at least two inches.

Claim 24 (**withdrawn**): The plastic carafe according to claim 22, wherein the wide mouth has an outside diameter that is greater than typical for a predetermined volume.

Claim 25 (**currently amended**): A system for containing liquids, comprising:

a plastic carafe having a top and a bottom, the carafe comprising

a body portion having an enclosed base **and** defined by a plurality of upstanding **substantially flat** posts and a plurality of **adjacent** panels, each of the plurality of panels separating one of the plurality of posts from one another **and each of said posts joined to the adjacent panel by a rounded corner**; a flared neck portion having a blown finish and defining a wide mouth; and a shoulder portion transitioning each of said posts and said panels to said neck portion; and

a closure adapted to engage the wide mouth and seal the carafe.

Claim 26 (original): The system according to claim 25, wherein the wide mouth is circular with an outside diameter of at least two inches.

Claim 27 (original): The plastic carafe according to claim 25, wherein the wide mouth is circular with an outside diameter that is greater than typical for a predetermined volume.

Claim 28 (original): The system according to claim 25, wherein the body portion, the neck portion and the shoulder portion together define an interior space of about 1.75 liters.

Claim 29 (original): The system according to claim 25, wherein the neck portion includes a plurality of inwardly extending grooves.

Claim 30 (original): The system according to claim 25, wherein the closure is a first closure, the body includes a base at the bottom, and the base is contoured to engage at least a portion of a protrusion on a second closure.

Claim 31 (original): The system according to claim 30, wherein the protrusion defines a peripheral ring.

Claim 32 (original): The system according to claim 30, wherein the second closure further comprises an outer ring portion and an inner disc portion, the protrusion being formed on the outer ring portion.

Claim 33 (original): The system according to claim 30, wherein the second closure is a press-fit lid.

Claim 34 (original): The system according to claim 30, wherein the second closure is attachable to a second container.

Claim 35 (original): The system according to claim 30, wherein the base of the container straddles the protrusion of the second closure.

Claim 36 (original): The system according to claim 30, wherein the base further comprises:

a standing surface having an outer portion and an inner portion, the outer portion merging with one of the posts and panels;

a bottom wall defining a central concavity surrounded by the standing surface; and

a stacking ring interposed between the inner portion of the standing surface and the bottom wall operative to engage the portion of the protrusion of the second closure.

Claim 37 (original): The system according to claim 36, wherein the bottom wall of the base further comprises a plurality of external ribs having an external rib base disposed upwardly into the central concavity and an external rib apex disposed downwardly towards the stacking ring.

Claim 38 (original): The system according to claim 30, wherein the first and second closures are identical.

Claim 39 (original): The system according to claim 30, wherein the finish and the closure provide an oriented closure of the carafe and closure.

Claim 40 (original): The system according to claim 39, wherein the oriented closure provides at least one feature of the closure that corresponds and aligns with at least one feature of the carafe.